WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A DNA molecule comprising:

(1) a DNA sequence which encodes the MORT-1 protein, having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(2) a DNA sequence which encodes an analog of said MORT-1 protein which binds with the intracellular domain of the FAS ligand receptor (FAS-IC), which DNA sequence is capable of hybridization to the cDNA encoding SEQ ID NO:2 under moderately stringent conditions; or

(3) a DNA coding sequence consisting of a DNA sequence which encodes a fragment of said MORT-1 protein which binds with FAS-IC.

2. A DNA molecule in accordance with claim 1, comprising a DNA sequence encoding an analog of said MORT-1 protein which binds with FAS-IC, which DNA sequence is capable of hybridization to the cDNA encoding SEQ ID NO:2 under moderately stringent conditions.

3. A vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 1.

4. A vector according to claim 3 which is capable of being expressed in a eukaryotic host cell.

5. A vector according to claim 3 which is capable of being expressed in a prokaryotic host cell.

6. Transformed eukaryotic or prokaryotic host cells containing a vector according to claim 3.

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7. A method for producing a polypeptide which binds to the intracellular domain of the FAS-R, comprising growing the transformed host cells according to claim 6 under conditions suitable for the expression of an expression product from said cells, effecting post-translational modifications of said expression product as necessary for obtention of said polypeptide, and isolating said expressed polypeptide.

8. A polypeptide comprising:

(1) the MORT-1 protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(2) an analog of said MORT-1 protein which binds with the intracellular domain of the FAS ligand receptor (FAS-IC), which analog is encoded by a DNA sequence which is capable of hybridization to the cDNA encoding SEQ ID NO:2 under moderately stringent conditions; or

(3) a fragment of said MORT-1 protein which binds with FAS-IC.

9. A polypeptide in accordance with claim 8, comprising an analog of said MORT-1 protein which binds with FAS-IC, which analog is encoded by a DNA sequence capable of hybridization to the cDNA encoding SEQ ID NO:2 under moderately stringent conditions.

10. A pharmaceutical composition for the modulation of the FAS-R ligand-effect on cells comprising, as active ingredient, a polypeptide according to claim 8.

11. A pharmaceutical composition for modulating the FAS-R ligand-effect on cells comprising, as active ingredient, a recombinant animal virus vector encoding a protein capable of binding a cell surface receptor and encoding a polypeptide according to claim 8.

12. A method for the modulation of the FAS-R ligand effect on cells carrying a FAS-R, comprising treating said cells with one or more polypeptides according to claim 8, capable of binding to the intracellular domain and modulating the activity of said FAS-R, wherein said treating of said cells comprises introducing into said cells said one or more polypeptides in a form suitable for intracellular introduction thereof, or introducing into said cells a DNA sequence encoding said one or more polypeptides in the form of a

suitable vector carrying said sequence, said vector being capable of effecting the insertion of said sequence into said cells in a way that said sequence is expressed in said cells.

13. A method for modulation of the FAS-R ligand-effect on cells according to claim 12, comprising treating said cells with a single said polypeptide.